

2017 CIRDA Programme Board Meeting 16 February, 2017

Minutes

Participants:

- Stephen Gold, Principal Policy and Technical Advisor and Head of Green LECRDS, UNDP
- Bonizella Biagini, CIRDA Manager, UNDP
- Benjamin Larroquette UNDP RTA for Africa
- Laurent Mascar Ngoma, UNDP Climate Change Adaptation and Environment Specialist, Sao Tome and Principe
- Mariatu Swaray, UNDP Portfolio Manager for Environment, Sierra Leone
- Onesimus Muhwezi, UNDP Team Leader for Energy & Environment, Uganda
- Montserrat Xilotl, CIRDA Coordinator

Meeting Brief

Stephen Gold, in his role as Chair of the meeting, welcomed all participants to the board meeting, highlighting UNDP's CIRDA Programme and its relevance to UNDP goals as well as the Programme's strong results in delivering its objectives. The Programme is now starting its 4th year of implementation and has worked diligently at supporting 11 African LDCs, each with different capacity and national/local circumstances; has helped procuring essential technologies to generate weather and climate data; and has deployed a very strong technical team of meteorologists and hydrologists to support each country. These achievements are very much in line with the Programme's aim to use the weather and climate information for adaptation and resilience purposes, moving from stand-alone technology transfer to creation of climate products that can reach and help the most vulnerable communities

Bonizella Biagini, as CIRDA Manager, presented a brief overview of the CIRDA Programme's progress and the state of its partner countries. Capacity building and training were highlighted as key programme achievements as was the development of knowledge management materials to systemize lessons learned and analyze the current capacities to develop weather services in Africa to ensure the sustainability of the enhanced observations and EW systems that have been developed with CIRDA and CI/EWS Project support. The Programme Manager (PM) briefly illustrated the results achieved so far by the programme, and presented the 2017 annual work plan (AWP) and budget. The 2017 AWP includes: tailored technical country support to partner countries, especially focused on installation, maintenance of operations of recently purchased technologies to provide weather and climate data and products; the development of a regional workshop in August; implementation of the private sector strategy; continued communication work; and donor outreach. The PM asked the Board to approve the AWP and budget while also soliciting their endorsement to extend the Programme (December 2019) to attend to the needs of all the CIRDA partner countries, particularly those that are delivering results at a slower pace due to limited initial capacity and in some cases national emergencies (2015 ebola crisis). **The board**



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proceeded to approve the CIRDA Programme's 2017 AWP and budget and endorsed the PM's request to extend the programme. With this in mind, the PM agreed to process the corresponding authorizations and paperwork needed for the Programme's extension.

Comments and Questions

Onesimus Muhwezi complimented the results of the CIRDA Programme and thanked the PM for the ongoing support that has been provided to Uganda through multiple in-country missions by CIRDA experts, the development of a national stakeholder meeting and introducing through the Climate Action Hackathon the type of last mile services that can be created to communicate climate information. He inquired on the follow up to the applications and software that were created and the possibility of them being used by national projects. The PM replied that the applications were presented with the aim of being used by the national projects, should they be interested. Therefore any interested partner country should feel free to engage with the software developers met in Livingstone during the Zambia Hackathon. The Programme can gladly share the contact information if desired. Onesimus also mentioned his interest in following up the results of the stakeholders meeting held in Kampala, particularly in developing PPPs. The PM assured that CIRDA experts are available anytime to facilitate arrangements for this purpose and highlighted the results of the market study that illustrates the potential to engage the private sector in various sectors related to climate information and develop win-win solutions. Onesimus mentioned that he would require support in helping the Uganda NHMS transition from traditional operations to one with a business model to ensure overall system sustainability. He also mentioned that Uganda's SCI/EWS project will close this year as the project's funds have been allocated, however there is concern with aligning the incoming data from the acquired weather stations (Adcon) under the SCI/EWS project. He would like to enlist support from UNDP CIRDA experts in dealing with this issue. For this purpose the CIRDA team will organize a training workshop to help all partner countries address and solve this problem.

Laurent Ngoma welcomed the PM's presentation and congratulated her on the Programme's 83% delivery rate. In the case of Sao Tome and Principe the support provided by CIRDA has been extremely welcome, as multiple expert visits have occurred to address the country's specific needs. In the case of Sao Tome, he stated that the extension of the CIRDA Programme would be extremely welcome as they will also need extra time to fully implement the national SCI/EWS project. He mentioned that while he welcomes the regional workshop, which are always extremely helpful, he feels that a team back meeting among implementing partners is needed particularly as countries are seeing results or are near completion of project execution. This is a critical time to ensure that project exit strategies are successful and allow for long term sustainability of the project's goals. He also requested moving the regional workshop to September as many people will be on holiday in August. Finally, he welcomed the development of knowledge management material to collect best practices, particularly in technical aspects. The PM assured that all requests by board members would be taking into account for future actions, including the structure and scope of the next workshops.

Benjamin Larroquete, congratulated the PM for the successful continued implementation of the CIRDA Programme. He fully endorsed the Programme's extension particularly to address the



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needs of countries such as Liberia and Sierra Leone that are still in the early part of project implementation. He also welcomed the 2017 AWP as it being responsive to country needs.

Stephen Gold asked the Board to approve the 2017 Work Plan and the extension of the project, after a clear written justification is provided to the Board. The Board approved. In closing, Steve thanked all participants for their time and insights and asked the PM to proceed with the Programme's extension and to implement its AWP as presented in the meeting.